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WHERE DID LIFE BEGIN?¹—This brochure is devoted to the demonstration of the proposition that life made its appearance on the earth at the poles. The obvious reason for this conclusion is the fact that it was at the poles that the temperature of the earth first reached a point sufficiently low to permit life as it appears to us now. The question is discussed from both the physical and biological standpoints, and the facts of geographical distribution are brought to bear. The reasoning is good and fairly deducible from the premises. The law, while true in general, is nevertheless subordinated in its workings to questions of the distribution of land and water. We cannot, therefore, agree with Mr. Scribner in the supposition that hairy elephants and rhinoceroses have always dwelt in arctic climes, and had not migrated from tropical regions in earlier ages. The land of the arctics which belongs to the possible age of higher mammals is of later geologic age than that of the south, so that many of the terrestrial types of animals and plants have of necessity originated in southern regions.

GEOLOGICAL REPORT OF INDIANA FOR 1882²—This useful volume comprises the results of further surveys of different counties, besides containing an outline of the geology of the State, with an outline map. It likewise contains a catalogue of the flora of central-eastern Indiana by Dr. A. J. Phinney. A large proportion of the volume, with thirty-two plates, is devoted to the elucidation, by Professor James Hall, of the late Mr. Van Cleave's fossils, and manuscripts relating to them; also lengthy notes on the Spargen Hill carboniferous fossils, by Professor Hall. The report closes with a brief reference to the diatoms of the waters of Indiana accompanying six plates of figures.

MARTIN'S HUMAN BODY.³—This is an abridgement of the author's larger text-book on human physiology, and seems to us to be as well, if not much better adapted for general use than any other book on this subject. Teachers certainly will find it a fresh and original book, and will be aided in their work of teaching this difficult study by the appendices to many of the chapters, giving directions for the performance of simple physiological experiments. The illustrations are abundant and excellent, particularly the full-page illustrations in colors, which are well printed.

¹ *A brief inquiry as to the probable place of beginning and natural course of migration therefrom of the Flora and Fauna of the Earth.* By G. HILTON SCRIBNER. New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1883.

² *Indiana Department of Geology and Natural History.* (Twelfth Annual Report.) JOHN COLLETT, State Geologist, 1882. Indianapolis, 1883. 8vo, pp. 400.

³ *American Science Series, Briefer Course.* The Human Body. An elementary text-book of Anatomy, Physiology and Hygiene. By H. NEWELL MARTIN, M. D., etc. New York, Henry Holt & Co., 1883. 12mo, pp. 355. \$1.50.